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# Industrial Disputes, Australia

The number of disputes (strikes or lockouts), employees involved and working days lost; cause of dispute; duration; and the reason work resumed

Reference period September 2024

Released 11/12/2024

## On this page

- [Key statistics](#)
- [Overview](#)
- [Long-term trends](#)
- [Industry](#)
- [States and territories](#)
- [Cause of dispute](#)
- [Working days lost](#)
- [Reason work resumed](#)
- [Data downloads](#)
- [Methodology](#)

Feedback

## Key statistics

In the September quarter 2024:

- 63 disputes occurred.
- 33,000 employees were involved and 46,600 working days lost.
- disputes occurred in 7 industries and in 8 states and territories.

During the year ended September 2024, there were 200 disputes and a total of 129,500 working days lost.

## Key statistics

	Quarter		Year ended	
	June Quarter 2024	September Quarter 2024	September Quarter 2023	September Quarter 2024
Number of disputes (no.)				
	New	43	54	196
	Total	52	63	211
Employees involved (‘000)				
	New	23.6	30.9	49.4
	Total	23.8	33.0	52.7
Working days lost (‘000)				
		21.9	46.6	76.1
				129.5

## Overview

In the September quarter 2024, there were:

- 63 disputes, an increase from 52 in the previous quarter.
- 33,000 employees involved, an increase from 23,800 in the previous quarter.
- 46,600 working days lost, an increase from 21,900 in the previous quarter.

Year ended estimates:

- 200 disputes occurred, 11 less than in the previous year.
- 129,500 working days were lost, 53,500 more than in the previous year.

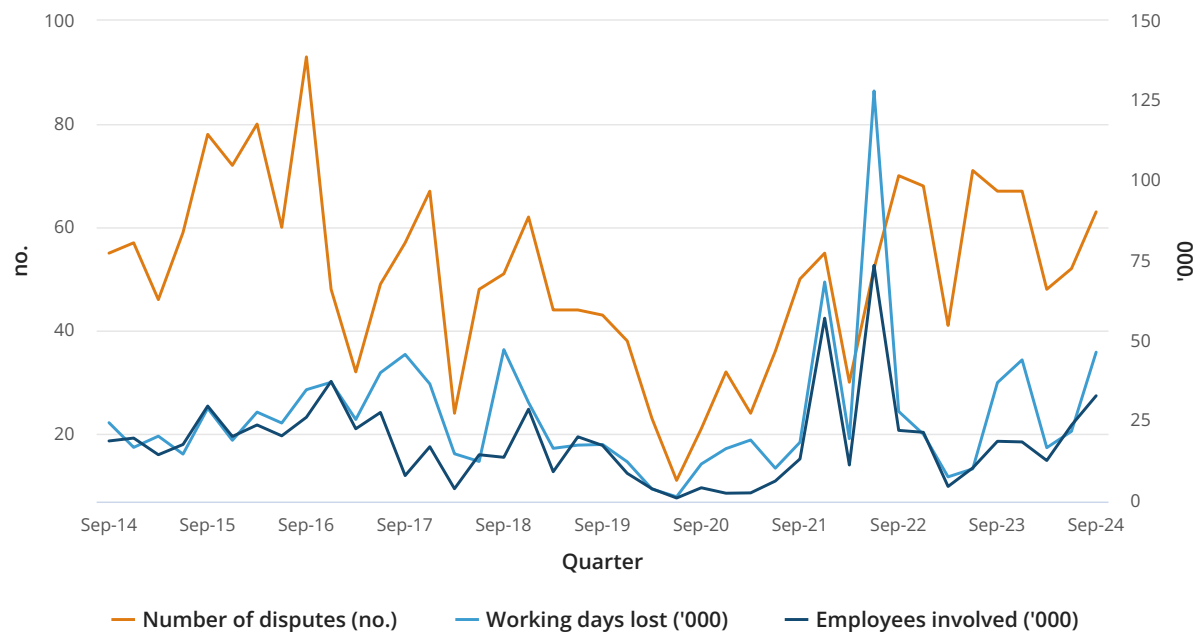
## Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter

	Number of disputes		Employees involved		Working days lost
	New (no.)	Total (no.)	New (‘000)	Total (‘000)	(‘000)
September Quarter 2022	60	70	21.2	22.2	28.1
December Quarter 2022	53	68	18.4	21.6	21.0
March Quarter 2023	33	41	4.1	4.7	7.7
June Quarter 2023	57	71	9.6	10.5	10.2
September Quarter 2023	53	67	17.4	18.8	37.1
December Quarter 2023	47	67	14.3	18.6	44.2
March Quarter 2024	36	48	10.6	12.8	16.8
June Quarter 2024	43	52	23.6	23.8	21.9
September Quarter 2024	54	63	30.9	33.0	46.6

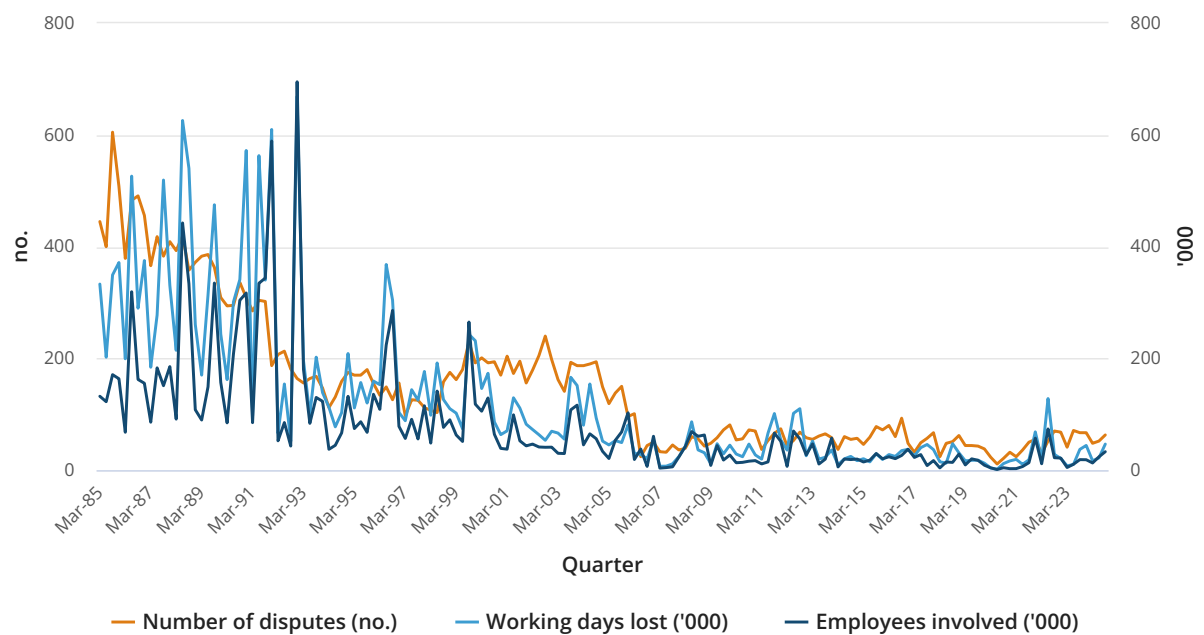
## Long-term trends

The level of industrial disputation over recent years is considerably lower than in the 1980's and prior decades.

## Industrial disputes in the last 10 years, Australia



## Industrial disputes historical series, Australia



## Industry

In the September quarter, disputes occurred in seven industries. Over a half (59%) of the total working days lost were in the Construction industry.

### Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, industry

		June Quarter 2024		September Quarter 2024	
		Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)
Mining					
	Coal mining	-	-	0.2	5.7
	Other mining	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing					
	Metal product etc (a)	2.2	6.4	2.3	7.1
	Other manufacturing	3.9	7.7	3.6	7.1
Construction		8.9	7.9	27.5	25.6
Transport, postal & warehousing		0.6	0.9	1.4	2.3
Education & training; Health care & social assistance		4.9	1.5	6.0	
Other industries (a)		1.4	0.2	5.6	
All industries		21.9	1.7	46.6	

(a) see Glossary - [Industry \(/methodologies/industrial-disputes-australia-methodology/sep-2024#glossary\)](#)- for details of industries included

(-) nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

## States and territories

Disputes occurred in eight states and territories in the September quarter, with over a third (36%) of the total working days lost occurring in Victoria.

### Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, states and territories



June Quarter 2024			September Quarter 2024	
	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)
New South Wales	2.4	0.6	12.2	3.0
Victoria	2.4	0.7	16.6	4.8
Queensland	10.4	3.9	13.1	4.9
South Australia	np	np	2.7	3.1
Western Australia	4.5	3.0	0.3	0.2
Tasmania	np	np	np	np
Northern Territory	-	-	np	np
Australian Capital Territory	-	-	np	np
Australia	21.9	1.7	46.6	3.5

(-) nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)  
(np) not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

### Cause of dispute

Most industrial disputes are Enterprise Bargaining (EB) related. Over the past 10 years, disputes over employment conditions have generally been the most prevalent.

EB related issues were the cause of 67% of disputes (29 of 43) which ended in the June quarter 2024.

### Cause of dispute for disputes which ended during the quarter



		March Quarter 2024			June Quarter 2024		
		Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
Enterprise Bargaining related							
	Remuneration	6	0.5	2.1	6	0.4	1.6
	Employment conditions	23	9.6	20.5	23	10.4	7.6
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non- Enterprise Bargaining related							
	Remuneration	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Employment conditions	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Health and safety	8	1.4	1.6	11	5.9	4.7
	Job security	-	-	-	1	np	np
	Managerial policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Union issues	-	-	-	1	np	-
	Other	2	1.0	0.8	1	3.1	-
Total		39	12.5	25.1	43	21.7	-

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## Working days lost

Working days lost is a measure of the length of a dispute, relative to the number of employees involved.

Of the 43 disputes which ended in the June quarter, 23 lasted up to and including 1 day. These disputes had:

- 20,400 employees involved; and
- 11,800 working days lost.

## Working days lost for disputes which ended during the quarter

	March Quarter 2024			June Quarter 2024		
	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
Up to and including 1 day	17	7.8	6.9	23	20.4	11.8
Over 1 day and up to including 2 days	13	2.4	3.4	4	0.3	0.4
Over 2 and less than 5 days	6	0.6	1.6	12	1.0	3.1
5 and less than 10 days	2	1.7	12.0	2	0.1	0.4
10 days and over	1	-	1.1	2	-	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>16.7</b>

(-) nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

## Reason work resumed

The reason work resumed relates to the last day of action taken. Resumption of work can occur without resolution to the issues that triggered the dispute.

There was a pre-determined return to work for 72% of disputes (31 of 43) which ended in the June quarter 2024.

## Reason work resumed for disputes which ended during the quarter

	March Quarter 2024			June Quarter 2024		
	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
Negotiation without intervention of a third party	4	np	np	4	np	np
State legislation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal legislation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pre-determined return to work	28	10.3	21.4	31	18.9	13.7
Resumption without negotiation	5	1.9	2.1	7	np	np
Mediation	2	np	np	1	np	np
Other reasons	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>16.7</b>

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## Data downloads

## Time Series Spreadsheets

↓ Download all (489.16 KB)

Table 1: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[58.59 KB]

Table 2a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, industry

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[54.29 KB]

Table 2b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, industry

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[54.08 KB]

Table 3a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, states and territories

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[63.39 KB]

Table 3b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, states and territories

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[62.18 KB]

Table 4a: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, cause of dispute

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[94.87 KB]

Table 4b: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, working days lost per employee involved

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[63.63 KB]

Table 4c: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, reason work resumed

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[80.69 KB]

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## Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6321.0.55.001.

## Methodology

[Industrial Disputes, Australia methodology, September 2024](#)